

Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 16:02:25 Australian Eastern Standard Time

Subject: Re: Parcels delivered to 76 Canning Street, North Melbourne
Date: Saturday, 11 July 2020 at 2:08:51 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: Justin Hanney
To: Macdonald, Nick, Holgate, Christine, Staunton, s 47 E(c)
CC: s 47 E(c)
Attachments: Document.PDF, ATT00001.htm

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secureatpost@auspost.com.au <<mailto:secureatpost@auspost.com.au>>

Christine, s 47 E(c) and Nick,

Please find attached a formal complaint that was lodged with The Australian Federal Police yesterday. At present the City of Melbourne have the responsibility for delivering food and essential goods to the tenants in covid apartment lock down at North Melbourne public housing estate.

I understand that Australia Post delivered numerous packages on Thursday. These were signed for a City of Melbourne employee. The mail delivery person from Australia Post said "here is mail from Pauline Hanson" he then took a photo of our employee. Our staff member alerted the seniors DHHS employee who are the responsible authority (owner) of the buildings. That person identified that one of the addresses had no tenant and opened that package to look at the product, I assume on the basis that DHHS was the Householder in that instance.

As CEO of the authority (City of Melbourne) given responsibility for coordination of the food and goods to North Melbourne Public tenants during the Covid lockdown, I assume the contents of the box opened by DHHS is the same as that contained in the other identical boxes. This being the case I believe what is contained in these boxes could cause offence to a number of the recipients and potentially cause discontent.

I notified Australia Post last night that I have referred the matter to the federal police.

As is stated in the letter sent to the Federal Police yesterday, the view was taken by the City of Melbourne that the material contained in the packages was offensive and as a consequence breached Section 471.12 of the Federal Criminal Code. Our role was to protect and look after the residents in what was unprecedented health and community crisis. We believed the delivery of the packages could be seen as aiding in the commission of what was believed to be a crime. Being placed in such a position and given the circumstances, I formed the view that the only option was to refer the matter to the Federal police to investigate.

Before you respond further I would like you to reflect on the ramifications of delivering such an offensive product to North Melbourne public housing residents. These residents are already under enormous pressure, being surrounded by family and neighbours some who have the corona virus and who are under unprecedented severe lock down conditions as a result of Corona Virus. Should these packages be delivered, I believe they will cause great offence and conflict to a group of very vulnerable people that are already feeling disenfranchised and are in a highly emotionally charged and volatile state and environment.

Regards,

Justin Hanney | Chief Executive Officer

City of Melbourne | 90-120 Swanston Street Melbourne 3000 <x-apple-data-detectors://1> | GPO Box 1603
 Melbourne 3001 <x-apple-data-detectors://2/0>
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justin.hanney@melbourne.vic.gov.au<<mailto:justin.hanney@melbourne.vic.gov.au>>
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CITY OF MELBOURNE

10 July 2020

Mr Reece Kershaw
Commander
Australian Federal Police

Via email - MEL-OMC@afp.gov.au

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Dear Commander Kershaw,

I write regarding a matter of concern that occurred in North Melbourne on Thursday 9 July.

The City of Melbourne has been coordinating the delivery of food and other essential items to residents of North Melbourne subject to Victorian Government detention orders due to COVID-19. This includes the delivery of mail.

There were 114 packages delivered by Australia Post to 125/76 Canning Street North Melbourne addressed "to the householder."

The Department of Health and Human Services, as the owner of the unoccupied apartments where the packages were sent, opened one of the packages addressed to the householder since it is the 'householder'. The packages appear to be identical.

The packages contained stubby holders marked 'I've got the guts to say what you're thinking.' A handwritten note reading 'No hard feelings' was also included.

The return address for the parcels was Pauline Hanson's [One Nation PO BOX 136, Pinkenba QLD 4008](#).

The North Melbourne public housing estate is culturally and linguistically diverse with residents speaking more than 100 languages. Further, at this time they are particularly vulnerable.

I am concerned that the material and its delivery breaches the Commonwealth Criminal Code as being reasonably likely to cause offence. The code states that it is an offence to use the postal service to menace, harass or cause offence.

It is our intention to return these items to Australia Post, and we have been in touch with them today to discuss this further. However, I would welcome any advice you have on this.

I ask that the Australian Federal Police investigate this matter further, and if required refer this to any other relevant agencies.

I can be contacted on s 47F [REDACTED] for any further information required.
Yours sincerely

Justin Hanney
Chief Executive Officer